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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 14, 2006

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors, Public and Private Agency Directors and Michigan Education Associations

FROM: Mike Flanagan 

SUBJECT: Public Comment Opportunities on Proposed *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infant and Toddler Programs*

In January 2003, Michigan continued on a journey to develop a comprehensive early childhood system, with the vision of Governor Granholm's "A Great Start for every child in Michigan: safe, healthy, and eager to succeed in school and in life." As the work unfolded, it became clear that expectations for young children's learning and for quality program standards beyond child care licensing rules were a critical foundation for this comprehensive system.

In response to this, the Department of Education convened an interagency group to lead the development of the *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten*. The State Board of Education approved the document at its March 2005 meeting. Immediately after the approval of the Prekindergarten document, the Department of Education convened another interagency group to lead the development of a similar document to apply to programs for children birth to three years of age.

At its meeting on September 12, 2006, the State Board of Education received the document, *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infants and Toddler Programs*, proposed by a committee of more than 65 individuals, and was informed of the plan for public comment on the Standards.

Public comment will be at the following locations and times.

- Novi Sheraton Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, September 29, 2006, 4:15-5:30 p.m. following the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Infant-Toddler Conference.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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- Capitol View Building, Public Health Conference Room, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, October 4, 2006, 9-10:30 a.m.
- Landmark Inn, 230 N. Front Street, Marquette, October 20, 2006, 3-4:30 p.m.

The document can be accessed on the Michigan Department of Education website at www.michigan.gov/mde; click on "keywords" and then "Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infants and Toddler Programs." Comments on the document will be accepted until October 20, 2006 through a dedicated e-mail address, mde-ecsqa@michigan.gov, or by mail to: Lindy Buch, Ph.D., Director, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services, Michigan Department of Education, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909.